"Eren Yeager. You. Are. Free"

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by Aithusa_DiAngelo

Summary

The future was inevitable.

No matter how hard he tried, the future happens as it should be. So why? Why is Sasha alive?

In which Sasha lives, and it is the only thing that gives Eren Yeager hope.

Notes

See the end of the work for notes

- Inspired by we didn't dare dream by theworldender (shenanigansam)

Jean saw Sasha tackle the Marleyan girl – saving Eren's life.

He didn't even seem fazed by the bullet that had soared directly past his ear, still running. And then Eren reached Zeke, and he slowed to a stop in front of his brother.

He just stood there, looking at his brother's hand, reaching towards him.

For the first time since the battle had started, Eren glanced over his shoulder, searching for *something.*

His gaze landed on Sasha – who still had the Marleyan girl under her – and he *smiled.*

He saw Eren's lips move – he was saying something to Sasha. *Which was odd, considering the lengths Eren took to avoid Sasha for the past 3 years, avoiding her far more than the rest of them.*

("Sasha…. Thank you. You gave me hope when there was none. Thanks to you, I know what I must do now.")

Sasha had widened her eyes, her pale face filled with confusion – whatever Eren said to her, Jean was too far away to hear it.

("Thank you.")

Then he touched Zeke's hand.

As he rubbed his eyes while trying to sit up, the last thing Jean remembered was Eren touching Zeke's hand.

He found himself lying in a world of sand, with countless stars on the night sky.

He looked around and the first thing he noticed was a giant tree.

The tree itself seems to glow with a faint, otherworldly light, giving it a mystical aura. Its branches stretch infinitely upwards and outwards, almost as if they are touching the cosmos itself.

At the base of this tree, he saw a pool of water, which reflected the light of the tree and the surrounding stars. Standing near this pool he saw three figures, one of them kneeling, and the other two standing up, but he could not make out who they were.

He then looked around, noticing that he wasn't alone. Mikasa, Armin, Connie and Sasha were all next to him. He could see others in the distance, Hange and Levi were standing together – relief filled him, finding out that they were safe, Reiner and the Cart and Jaw Titans were standing together on the other side. He saw Historia, pregnant still at seven months, standing alone. He even saw, to his surprise, Annie, standing some distance away from everyone.

Nobody spoke. It was as if they could not. It was as if they weren't in the middle of a war with each other. They all simultaneously started walking towards the glowing tree.

When they reached the tree, the figures became clear.

Zeke Yeager was there, he was on his knees and his hands were chained, exactly like Jean remembered Eren being under the Reiss Chapel.

There was a girl there, wearing rugs instead of normal clothes. She was small and looked frail with a youthful face, and eyes which were hidden by her long, flowing blonde hair – wild and unkempt. Discarding her wild and otherwise poor appearance, she very much resembled Historia.

Standing next to her, was none other than Eren Yeager, and he heard Mikasa gasp next to him.

None of the three looked as if they noticed them approach. Zeke Yeager looked as if he had his whole world ripped out from under him. His eyes wide and filled with disbelief were locked onto Eren and the little girl who could only be the *Founder* herself, *Ymir Fritz.*

Suddenly, she spoke to Eren, and her voice, while soft, seemed to shake the world around them.

"……there are many victims in this world, that is true, but their lives have always been their own. Their choices, their own. But not yours. Never yours. Made to bend, made to break, and yet always to fight. Fight. Fight. Never a moment of respite, never a place to rest…"

"You spent centuries trying to free me, to liberate me. And you did. For this, with all my heart... I am grateful to you," Ymir whispered.

She then stepped forward and took Eren Yeager's face in her hands.

"You broke my chains with these very words, and I shall do the same for you. For this is the least you deserve, my liberator. You are not a soldier. You are not a savior. You are not a God. You are not an instrument, a convenience, a weapon. You get to make your own decisions now. You are not a slave, not anymore."

"Eren Yeager. You. Are. Free."

And then, Eren Yeager laid his face on her shoulder, fell to his knees, and *wept*.

Ymir Fritz embraced him and, after a while, bid him to stand.

As she spoke, Jean realized they weren't in the world of sand anymore. They were all standing around the place Eren touched Zeke's hand, but for some reason, there were no sounds of battle. A quick look around made him realize why that was. He could see the Walls surrounding Shiganshina. start to disappear—not crumble, not collapse, but simply turn to dust, along with the Colossal Titans within them. He could see the people that had transformed into Titans slowly evaporate, turning back into humans.

He watched people – Eldians and Marleyans both – watch it all. All thoughts of battle leaving their minds.

"Forgive your daughter, Eren Yeager," Ymir ~~Fritz~~ ~~*Yeager?*~~ Fritz said, her blue eyes – *so like Historia's* – finally visible, a small smile on her face. "Forgive her for all the pain she caused you. It will all be over soon."

A green light then appeared from Eren's body – much like the branches of the glowing tree at the world of sand – and flew towards Ymir, followed by two more.

And then more lights began flying to the *Mother of All Titans.* From Annie, Reiner and the Cart and Jaw Titans. From Zeke Yeager flew two lights, still kneeling at Ymir Fritz's feet.

Green lights flew out of Mikasa, Levi, Armin and three from Historia, and Jean suddenly figured out that these lights appeared from everyone who had any connection with the Titans and their abilities. Annie, Reiner, Zeke, Eren, Armin and the Cart and Jaw Titans all possessed one of the Nine Titans – or, in Eren's case, three of them – and so the green light leaving them represented their Titans.

Mikasa and Levi were Ackermans, and while they weren't sure what exactly that meant, they all knew they had some Titans abilities, and the green lights that left them had something to do with that.

The most curious case, however, was Historia. She was neither a Titan, nor an Ackerman. The only reason for the green light was her royal blood, but why there were three lights coming out of her was a mystery.

As the green lights were absorbed by Ymir, she started emitting a faint green glow, just like the tree.

Suddenly, Jean felt like he had been reborn. Never had he felt as healthy as he did now, never so strong as he did now. He felt as though he could beat a Titan in a fistfight. He saw Hange suddenly touch her head for a moment. When she removed her eye patch after a moment, he was startled to see that she had *both eyes***.** Levi was also looking at his right hand, suddenly having all his fingers again.

Exclamations of joy were heard all around. Were before some were dying, or injured, now they were as healthy as they ever were.

Ymir stopped glowing, and he could see the line of houses behind her *through her,* it was like she was a ghost.

And with the last of her strength, Ymir ~~Fritz~~ *Yeager,* smiled at her father.

"Thank you, Eren. It's going to be okay. You can rest now."

Mikasa could not understand what was happening.

One moment she and Armin were fighting against the Cart Titan, and the next they were in the realm of the *Founder* with Eren.

(She couldn't comprehend that this Eren was the same as the one that sat across from her at that table.

~~*Mikasa*~~

~~it's not true~~

~~*Ever since we were children*~~

~~no~~

~~*I've hated you*~~

~~stop~~

She didn't understand the things she heard, didn't understand why Eren broke down crying – she had never seen him like this before.

As the Founder Ymir faded away, she noticed that she had never felt weaker than she did now. It was like a part of her was missing. The part of her that had woken up nine years ago – ~~*Fight, Fight, FIGHT!!!*~~ – had gone back to sleep. It was like it had never existed.)

As Ymir faded away, taking the Walls and the Titans inside them with her, there was silence.

Nobody could speak, not her, not her friends, not the other Titan Shifters. Not even other Eldians and Marleyans.

Nothing happened for several minutes. Nothing, until Zeke Yeager.

"What did you do?" his voice near a whisper – asking a question all wanted the answer to – his eyes wide and focused on his brother with a look of disbelief.

Eren didn't respond.

"Brother, what did you do?!"

Eren didn't respond. He knelt to the ground, picked up a sword, and dragged it across his palm, drawing blood.

Everyone tensed and Mikasa thought he was about to shift; Zeke's eyes were glued to Eren's hand.

Mikasa waited and…... nothing.

Eren wasn't shifting, and his wound wasn't steaming.

His wound wasn't steaming.

"I can't shift" Eren said, his voice almost euphoric, "I can't shift!" he let out a delirious laugh – the one he did when Hannes died.

He locked eyes with his astonished brother.

"I won."

End Notes

I don't know if I'll write more of this. It was just an idea I had.

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